



Serving With Pride The
Township of Manalapan
and the
Borough of Englishtown

John J. Marciante, Jr., Ph.D.

Superintendent of Schools

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August 24, 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Somehow the statement “Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year!” just doesn’t fit our current situation. We are attempting to return to school during a pandemic. It is going to be different than any other school year, for students, teachers and parents. It is going to be a challenge for all of us. So instead of welcome, let us think of this September as a challenge we have all been presented with and we have collectively chosen to face together. There will be many new routines that we will have to put in place. Everyday, besides brushing teeth and packing the school bag, you will take your child’s temperature. Bus stops will look different as the children social distance and are wearing a mask. Middle school students will take on the additional responsibility of cleaning their desk and chair as they move from one class to another. If there are any assembly programs they will be virtual and children will probably only see the students on the bus and the 10 or 11 other students in their classroom all day. Some children will meet their teacher for the first time online. Virtual instruction at home will be much more structured and require a dedicated work area like a child’s desk in a classroom.

While this year will be like no other, you can be assured that the administration has worked throughout the summer to develop a plan for addressing all of the concerns due to the pandemic. I would encourage you to review the Manalapan-Englishtown Reopening Plan on the district’s website. Professional development offered during the summer and scheduled for September will prepare our teaching staff to be ready to offer the students a more engaging learning experience than this past spring. We are also continuing to maintain the initiatives that have made us one of the best districts in the state. The successful implementation of the envisionMath 2.0 Mathematics program will be expanded to the seventh and piloted in eighth grade. We have also introduced Unit’s for Study in Reading for kindergarten and first grade and will continue to update curriculum as required by the Department of Education.

For updates on district events, Board of Education minutes, all district curricula, and PTA happenings, please check our website: www.mernsj.us. For daily updates on all the great things happening in the district please check the district Facebook page! I also strongly encourage you to download the district app which is used for all emergency announcements. Instructions for downloading the app can be found on the main page of our website.

Please note that district staff members can easily be emailed through the “Staff Directory” which can be found on each school’s web page. For example, my email address is jmarciante@mernsj.us (email addresses will contain either the first initial or the full first name). While you can still leave a voicemail for your child’s teacher or principal by calling the school, I recommend email as the most efficient way to contact staff members.

The Parent Portal for the districts' schools will be open on August 31, 2020. I recognize that this date is much later than it has been in the past. The extensive planning necessary for implementing the hybrid schedule and the virtual academy necessitated this delay. Your password from last year will continue to work and if you are new to the district you should have received a letter with a password for the Parent Portal. When you open the Parent Portal, you will have the opportunity to sign-off on all the required district forms after which you will have access to your child's homeroom placement and the name of your child's teacher. Bus passes will also be available through the Parent Portal on August 31, 2020.

You can be assured that we will do everything we can to maintain our long tradition of excellence. This year will be a challenge for all of us but by working together with you, we will provide your child with a positive educational experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John J. Marciante, Jr., Ph.D." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

John J. Marciante, Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools